



Application No. 10/684,188  
Docket No. 740819-1038

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: )

Mutsuo FUJII et al. ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Serial No. 10/684,188 ) Group Art Unit: 3616  
Filed: October 10, 2003 )  
For: VEHICLE AIR BAG DOOR ) Confirmation No. 2580

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The undersigned certifies that either (1) each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or (2) no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Enclosed is a copy of the European Search Report dated December 12, 2003, for a corresponding European patent application together with the references cited therein.

Please note that EP 0 968 889 A1 corresponds to U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0003343 A1.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. (740819-1038)

Respectfully submitted,  
NIXON PEABODY LLP

By:   
Donald R. Studebaker  
Registration No. 32,815

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Suite 900  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004-2128

Telephone: (202) 585-8000



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/684,188
Sheet	1	of	1	Filing Date	October 10, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Mutsuo FUJII
				Art Unit	3616
				Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	740819-1038

<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> ( <i>if known</i> )			
		US-5,902,428	05-11-1999	Gallagher et al.	
		US-2002/0003343 A1	01-10-2002	Kansteiner	
		US-6,467,801 B1	10-22-2002	Preisler et al.	
		US-			

<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Kind Code <sup>3</sup> Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> ( <i>if known</i> )				
		DE 199 984 A1	03-22-2001	Hug		Abstract
		EP 0 968 889 A1	01-05-2000	Kansteiner		
		JP 2001-88647	04-03-2001	Tagawa		Abstract
		WO 99/15369	04-01-1999	Bey et al.		Abstract

<b>OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b>						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				
		EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT DATED DECEMBER 12, 2003				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.